

**Economic and Social Council**Distr.: General
5 December 2011

Original: English

Commission on the Status of Women**Fifty-sixth session**

27 February-9 March 2012

Item 5 of the provisional agenda*

**Follow-up to Economic and Social Council resolutions
and decisions****Letter dated 21 November 2011 from the President of the
Economic and Social Council to the Chair of the Commission on
the Status of Women**

This substantive session of the Economic and Social Council in July 2011 helped to highlight the need to advance the development goals related to education. By promoting consensus on issues including access to education, improving the delivery of education and learning outcomes and utilizing education resources to improve outcomes and quality, the Council has opened the way for a number of opportunities to promote improved global education. This is a major step forward and cuts to the heart of numerous education challenges.

The Council has set the stage for many follow-up actions leading to the development of regional action plans on education access and improvement. Strong support was expressed for establishing a global fund for education. This will certainly help us to realize the potential of the Council in generating momentum towards the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals through bringing together so many diverse constituencies on issues of global import and in encouraging innovative solutions to problems.

The Council also reviewed the follow-up by the United Nations system to the 2010 Ministerial Declaration on gender equality and the empowerment of women and to the International Conference on Financing for Development. The discussions underlined the demand for better global economic governance, particularly in regard to the role of the United Nations system and the linkages to the Group of 20.

The Council also, during its operational activities segment, voiced expectations that the 2012 quadrennial comprehensive policy review of the General Assembly would review progress in strengthening the United Nations resident coordinator system and strategize on ways to strengthen the funding architecture of funds and programmes through the definition of what constitutes a "critical mass" of

* E/CN.6/2012/1.



core resources.

The Council also demonstrated its capacity to react quickly on topical issues, including those of South Sudan and the current emergency situation in the Horn of Africa. It adopted a resolution that reaffirms the importance of access and humanitarian principles, cluster coordination and accountability.

Finally, an informal event on South Sudan held jointly with the Peacebuilding Commission showed the potential of the Council's role in addressing such situations. The Council will continue to monitor the development of the new country and its progress towards achieving the Millennium Development Goals in view of its special responsibility to ensure that the United Nations system support to the country is integrated and coordinated.

I would greatly appreciate it if the present letter and its annex could be brought to the attention of your functional commission for consideration and action, if necessary, and wish to thank you for your continued assistance and collaboration in that regard.

(Signed) Lazarous **Kapambwe**

Annex

Decisions of the Economic and Social Council in 2011 calling for action by relevant United Nations bodies

Resolution requesting follow-up by the Commission on the Status of Women:

2011/18: Situation of and assistance to Palestinian women

Ministerial declaration and resolutions calling for action by all relevant United Nations bodies:

Ministerial declaration on implementing the internationally agreed goals and commitments in regard to education (A/66/3, chap. III.E)

2011/5: The role of the United Nations system in implementing the internationally agreed goals and commitments in regard to gender equality and the empowerment of women

2011/6: Mainstreaming a gender perspective into all policies and programmes in the United Nations system

2011/7: Progress in the implementation of General Assembly resolution 62/208 on the triennial comprehensive policy review of operational activities for development of the United Nations system

2011/8: Strengthening of the coordination of emergency humanitarian assistance of the United Nations

2011/9: Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2011-2020

2011/10: United Nations System Staff College in Turin, Italy

2011/19: Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS)

2011/25: Work of the Committee of Experts on the Transport of Dangerous Goods and on the Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labelling of Chemicals

2011/40: Support to Non-Self-Governing Territories by the specialized agencies and international institutions associated with the United Nations

2011/43: Support to the Republic of South Sudan